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STATE OF NEW YORK
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Albany, N. Y., October 20, 1911

THE NEW STATE LIBRARY

Book purchases

The New York State Library, largely destroyed by fire March 29, 1911, is now, by reason of liberal provision made for it by the State, prepared to begin arranging for its new collections.

It is the duty of those charged with the purchase of materials to see that the State gets full value for all money expended and to make sure that only choice books of real worth and usefulness are permitted to enter into the new library. The act of the Legislature, just passed, directs that the foundations now to be laid shall be made fit to carry, ultimately, a greater library than the one which was burned.

To this end it seems well to state briefly to dealers and others who may have books to give or to sell, and for the information of the general public which will be interested, something about the scope of the new library soon to be brought together.

It would be too much to expect to make the New York State Library greater than all other libraries in all particulars. Though it will have some books on most subjects, it can not undertake to collect all the books or even all the important books on *all* subjects.

The immediate definite constituency of the Library is of course the Legislature, the courts and the departments of the State government with their employes. In recent years as the business of the State has increased and the conception of the functions of the State has enlarged, the range and volume of the official demands made upon the State Library have steadily become greater and greater. It is expected that this will continue. It must be abundantly provided for.

A remoter but possibly an even more important constituency of the Library is steadily developing in every part of the State. Every school, every library, and all of the culturing, commercial, professional, and industrial activities in the State are depending upon and becoming, in effect, branches of the State Library. Through them any individual citizen may expect to find the unusual book not

found in local collections. It is the business of the Library to encourage this by meeting it.

The Library will, from the first, pay special attention to the following subjects, and in these subjects will aim to make its collections preeminent.

General reference books

a Complete sets of all journals named in the chief general indexes to English and American periodicals.

b All books named in any important indexes to general literature, e.g. The "A.L.A. Index," "A.L.A. Catalog," Granger, Cotgreave, Reader's Guide.

c All strictly "reference books" in all subjects, in the general acceptance of the term, an acceptance which may fairly be indicated by the scope of Kroeger's Guide to reference books.

d Publications of learned societies with particular attention to those on the subjects in which the Library is to specialize.

e Bibliography; especially titles listed in New York State Library School Bulletins 26 and 5, and Bibliography Bulletin 36. Books about books, the history of printing, examples of early printed books, of notable bindings, of books from famous presses, of exceptional typography. Library history, administration and publications.

Law

All American, British and colonial official, unofficial, side and local court reports.

All series of selected cases or cases covering special topics.

American, British and colonial statute law.

All law periodicals in the English language, with a selection from those in other languages.

Digests, tables of cases, citation books and all legal bibliographic apparatus necessary to the convenient and exhaustive study of case law.

Legal encyclopedias and dictionaries, American textbooks in all editions, legal history and biography, literature of the law, international law, constitutional law, trials.

Reports of American bar associations and legal societies.

Such of the statute law and legal literature of foreign countries as will be useful to our State courts and departments in passing upon foreign questions coming before them, and to the Legislature for a comparative study of legislation.

Medicine

Complete sets of all important medical serials, especially those listed in New York State Library Bibliography Bulletin 47 and those indexed in Index Medicus.

Transactions of medical academies and societies, bulletins from hospitals, public health reports, vital statistics.

Important cyclopedias, handbooks, reference works and texts, and of less use but surely claiming a place, the literature recounting the history and development of the medical sciences and the lives of famous physicians.

History

The standard histories of all countries, with special attention to those European nations which were early or active explorers of America, which were colonizers of this country and which have left traces upon our government, people and institutions.

Americana will be collected with zeal and in the broadest sense of the term emphasizing strongly the thirteen original colonies.

The collection of books and manuscripts relating to New York State must, of course, be by all odds the best in the country.

Local history, geography, travels, cartography, American Indians, American imprints before 1800, New York imprints before 1825, American newspapers before 1850, American biography and genealogy, with so much of English and foreign genealogy as shall be necessary to trace immigrant ancestry, are some of the collateral historical subjects which will have attention.

American literature to be principally represented by first and notable editions of the standard authors.

Education

The State Library is a part of the State Education Department, the Regents of the University are its trustees, and it is thus directly associated with the administrative educational offices of the State and all of the State's marvelous educational activities. There are more than 50,000 teachers in the State and the people expend more than \$80,000,000 each year for schools. Surely the State Library must make its collections on educational theory and practice as complete and as useful to the thousands of educational officers, teachers and students throughout the State as is possible. Schools, colleges, and universities, public and private, in all parts of the country are urged to send to the Library as full sets as possible of their reports, catalogs and publications.

Social science

The Library must have extensive collections on social, economic and political science; industrial history; statistics. In this field lie the political and economic questions which are the subjects of legislation and of State regulation or control. On such topics for example as Elections, Suffrage, Labor, Taxation, Banking and finance, Municipal government, Conservation, Public utilities, Insurance, Charities, no pains will be spared to build up notable collections.

Technology and engineering

The Library will aim to secure all the journals named in the Engineering Index and will more particularly notice topics which relate to activities or enterprises in which the State is engaged: canals, railroads, highways, water storage, agriculture, public health and the engineering phases of the utilities regulated by the Public Service Commissions.

Science

Beyond the fundamental general reference material, the State Library will specialize in science only so far as may be necessary to serve such agencies or departments of the State government as are doing scientific work. Good working collections will be made in geology, zoology, entomology, botany, with more particular attention to the economic phases of these subjects, and in chemistry as related to agriculture, the arts and commerce.

Manuscripts

Besides the manuscript archives which in accordance with law are from time to time transferred to the State Library by other State departments, the Library will secure all important private manuscripts that can be obtained relating to the history of the State and to the lives of its public men. Extensive collections of letters are specially desirable and the appropriateness of depositing them in the State Library is suggested to families in which such collections exist.

Government documents

As complete a set as possible of the printed documents of the United States Government both in the collected and departmental editions.

The same for every state in the Union. At this point many other State libraries have been prompt with offers of substantial help, which will be freely availed of as occasions for it arise.

The collected edition when issued (otherwise the separate editions) of the documents of every American city with more than 25,000 population, and for all counties, cities and incorporated villages in New York State.

In proceeding to secure books according to this program it will be assumed that whenever practicable the principle of competition as to prices must prevail. The Library will be free to go into the markets of the world and all who have materials to sell may be assured of fair dealing upon the basis of the best advantage to the Library.

The Library invites tenders from all who have books to offer which are within the scope of its proposed collections.

These tenders must be specific as to price, and clear and accurate as to the physical condition and bibliographic identity of the books offered.

Tenders of sets of periodicals, transactions of learned societies, state and government reports or serials of any sort should be for *complete sets* only, unless it is well known that the publication is exceedingly scarce.

Representatives of the Library expect to make personal examination of important purchases. It is therefore suggested that tenders be confined strictly to books actually in hand and not to books which individuals or dealers hope or plan to acquire later, unless they are standard and easily obtainable in the open market.

Unusual discounts will be expected for purchases involving considerable sums.

Any and all tenders may, of course, be declined. All of the facts and conditions affecting each specific tender will be considered and purchases will be made upon the basis of the best advantage to the State.

When cash is not paid contracts will be made for future delivery at the State Education Building in Albany, N. Y., probably not earlier than April or May, 1912. Payments will be made after delivery of goods in satisfactory condition. It is likely that many important purchases and those involving large sums of money will

be made on this contract plan. Form of contract to be used, additional copies of this circular, and lists of books wanted on particular subjects may be had from the undersigned to whom all tenders and correspondence should be addressed.

J I Wyer Jr

Director New York State Library

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A. S. Draper
Commissioner of *Education*



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